

Appln. No. 10/782,064
Amendment dated December 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed 10/12/2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) [[[in]]] In combination:

a valve override system; and

a gate valve assembly comprising a casing having openings for connection to an inlet conduit and an outlet conduit, and a gate movable in said casing between an open position and a closed position to block a fluid path between the inlet opening and the outlet opening, said gate having a bottom edge;

wherein the valve override system comprises:

an engagement means engaging the lower edge of said gate of said gate valve assembly such that said engagement means urges said gate of said gate valve assembly from said closed position toward said open position to allow fluid to pass through said gate valve assembly;

wherein said engagement means comprises a rigid elongate member extending through said casing of said gate valve assembly such that said rigid elongate member engages the bottom edge of said gate of said gate valve assembly;

wherein said rigid elongate member has threads, said threads of said rigid elongate member being adapted for threadably engaging the casing of the gate valve assembly, said rigid elongate member being adapted for being rotated with respect to the casing of the gate valve assembly for changing the length of said rigid elongate member positioned in the gate valve assembly to actuate the gate of the gate valve assembly;

an inhibiting member selectively engaging the casing of said gate valve assembly to inhibit environmental communication between an interior space of said gate valve assembly and an external environment of said gate valve assembly;